

The Chair, Jack Steiner at 7:00pm called the regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting to order. Those present included George Lagassa, Lloyd Sullivan (Selectman), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of December 11th, 2000. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to accept the minutes of December 11th, 2000. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

- a. Administration/Business
- b. Payroll
- c. Manifest
- d. Cemetery Deed
- e. Abatements -(Elizabeth Jewel - Hardship) (Peter Worrell - Backland adjustment)
(Charles & Aktina Pearson - Administrative correction)
- f. Police Officer (David Pridham) Oath of Office
- g. Land Use Change Tax - Jean Lincoln
- h. Mason & Rich - Audit Disclaimer Notification (Chair Signature)
- i. Coakley Minutes
- j. Executive Newsletter
- k. Regional 53-b (budget / Hazardous Waste Collection Commitment letter)
- l. AT&T - Programming Notice
- m. NH LCHIP sessions
- n. Workers Comp is now Primex³
- o. NHDES - Water Supply Land Grant Eligibility Application

NHAGS / Lou Datilio - 7:30pm

A presentation by Mr. Datilio concerning the possible use of the NHAGS facility by the Town.

Mr. Sullivan began the discussion by noting that Mr. Datillio had made a gracious offer to the Town to use the NHAGS (New Hampshire Association of Gymnastics) facility for its recreation programs. Mr. Sullivan noted that the Towns of Exeter, Portsmouth and Seabrook had written to Mr. Sullivan outlining similar relationships that municipal recreation programs had with private recreation facilities in those Towns. Mr. Datillio explained that the municipal / private model presently existed in North Hampton, too. The North Hampton recreation commission had a long-standing relationship with the North Hampton Youth Association. Mr. Datillio explained that the Town's recreation program was without a facility and that he (Mr. Datillio) was extending an offer to the Town's Recreation program to use the NHAGS facility. Mr. Sullivan asked the Recreation Director for an opinion on the subject. Ms. DeFelice noted that recreation program could use a facility and that other municipalities had similar arrangements. Mr. Steiner asked about insurance and liability issues. Ms. DeFelice believed that that issue needed further research and that it was an issue for the Board to decide. Mr. Steiner asked about code and life safety issues. Mr. Sullivan noted that they had been resolved. Mr. Sullivan asked if the Board should make a motion of support. Mr. Steiner believed that the issue of expanding use at the NHAGS facility was scheduled to be heard before the ZBA and that it was probably premature for a motion of support at this point. Mr. Lagassa agreed. The Board agreed to revisit the issue pending the outcome of the ZBA hearing. The Board thanked Mr. Datillio for his offer and agreed to revisit the issue at a later date when the code and ZBA issues were more fully resolved.

Selectmen Issues

Bandstand & Trustee of Trust Funds Appointments

Mr. Sullivan noted that the resignation of Byron Kirby had left a vacancy on the Bandstand. Bandstand Committee members recommended Debra Silley for nomination. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to appoint Ms. Silley as a member of the Bandstand Committee. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. The Board also recognized Byron Kirby for his lifetime of service to the Town and appointed him a lifetime member of the Bandstand. Mr. Sullivan also noted that Mr. Kirby was resigning his position as a Trustee of Trust Funds. Discussion ensued regarding the appointment of Richard Betcher, but it was reasoned that elections were only two months away and a vacancy until the election would not adversely impact the work of the Trustees.

Ratification of the Teamsters Collective Bargaining Agreement

Mr. Lagassa made the motion to ratify the collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Local 633, which included employees with the Police Department and Highway Department. Mr. Sullivan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Mr. Steiner noted that the agreement would alleviate turnover and bring the wage scale back in line with surrounding communities.

Hampton Water Works Request for Gowdy & Farrell Appraisal Report

The TA briefed the Board about the Hampton Water Works' request for a copy of the appraisal report conducted as part of a review of the water utility assessment. It was noted that no independent assessment of the water utility had previously been completed. The Board felt that the report was confidential and that the water utility, if they were seeking an abatement would need to do so for good cause shown. Mr. Tim Harned felt that the report should not be made available to the HWW.

Town Warrant Recommendation

The Board reviewed the warrant articles and agreed to recommend the articles.

Town Office Signage

Mr. Sullivan addressed the issue of signage for the Town Office. The sign was similar in design to the elementary school sign. The cost was \$3,150 excluding the cost of lettering and posts. Mr. Sullivan made the motion to purchase the sign. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and so moved. Mr. Steiner agreed to look into the purchase of granite posts for the sign.

Web Site Policy

Mr. Landman addressed the Board concerning the failure to post the updates to the High-Speed Internet page that he had provided to the Town Administrator. The TA noted that he had concerns about appropriateness and liability in the area of listing prices for private products and services. Did content posted on the site provide an implicit guarantee of product price and availability? Given the volatility in the marketplace price and product availability are subject to change without notice. The TA also expressed concern about providing links to private for profit websites. Was such a practice an implicit endorsement of particular products and particular vendors to the exclusion of other vendors? Was it appropriate for a publicly funded site to provide links to private listservers? Mr. Steiner noted that he had reviewed Mr. Landman's update, which he characterized as emphasizing a particular perspective that may be construed as inflammatory. There was some mirthful discussion regarding Mr. Landman's writing style. Mr. Lagassa agreed that a website content policy was necessary. Mr. Steiner directed the TA to begin research in the area. The TA agreed to look for examples from other Towns.

Mr. Lagassa noted that he had received a letter from Mr. Robert Fields regarding the deteriorating conditions of the wooden guardrails along the intersection of Mill Road and Atlantic Avenue. Mr. Lagassa noted that Mr. Strout had addressed the problem and that the issue would be attended to during the spring.

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Mr. Lagassa also noted that the Solid Waste Committee was reviewing an offer from Waste Management concerning a "pay-as-you-throw" program. The program, if acceptable to the Town, would be put out to bid and be entirely administered by the solid waste company.. The goal behind the program was to increase recycling. Doing so would reduce the waste stream and ultimately the tipping fees paid by the Town. Mr. Sullivan questioned why there was a need to replace the current system with a new one. Mr. Sullivan noted that the current system worked fine. Mr. Lagassa noted that the current system did not address recycling. Mr. Lagassa also noted that it would reduce the costs for those individuals who only had a single bag of trash because the cost of hauling and disposal was in the cost of the bag. The more trash an individual had the more they would pay. Conversely, the less trash meant less cost. Mr. Sullivan noted that such a change, which would affect everyone in town, would require a vote by the Town.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:40pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator